



## Economic Overview And Outlook: Alaska

### JOBS

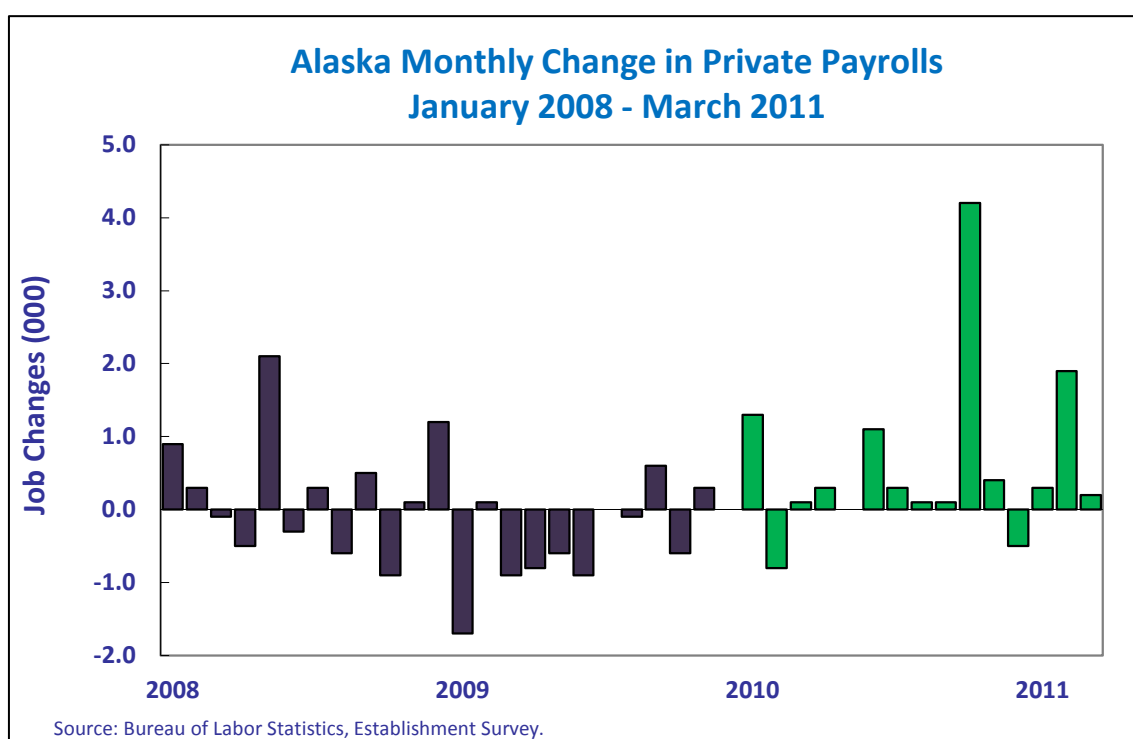
- In March, the private sector gained jobs nationwide for 13 consecutive months.
- In Alaska, private sector employment fell by 0.8 percent from January 2008 to February 2010. Since February 2010, private sector employment has grown by 3.6 percent.
- In Alaska, employees in the construction, manufacturing, and information services sectors faced the largest job losses (as a percent of employment within an industry) over the recession. Since the beginning of 2010, the following sectors in Alaska have experienced the greatest employment increases: manufacturing; mining; and leisure and hospitality.\*
- As the economy recovers from the Great Recession, service-providing industries are projected to add the most jobs between 2008 and 2018, with the largest gains in professional and business services, education, health care and social assistance, and State and local government. Within the goods-producing sector of the economy, only the construction industry is projected to add jobs above its 2008 level.

### EMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Alaska was 7.4 percent in March 2011, up 1.2 percentage points from December 2007, but down from its most recent peak of 8.2 percent in March 2010.
- 27,000 Alaska residents were counted among the unemployed in Alaska during March 2011.

### EARNINGS

- Between the start of the recession in the 4th quarter of 2007 and the 3rd quarter of 2009, inflation-adjusted total personal income in the United States declined 2.2 percent. Most recently, in the 4th quarter of 2010, total personal income is 0.3 percent above its 4th quarter of 2007 level.



- Real per capita personal income (in 2005 \$) in Alaska was \$39,978.60 in the 4th quarter of 2010, down from \$41,170.40 in the 4th quarter of 2008.

### HOUSING

- National home prices, including distressed sales, saw a decrease of 6.7 percent in February 2011 from February 2010 compared to a 5.5 percent decrease in January. In Alaska, home prices saw an increase of 1.2 percent in February 2011 from February 2010 following January's year over year decrease of 1.1 percent.
- The median price of single-family homes in Alaska was \$241,750 in the second quarter of 2010, compared to \$180,176 nationwide.
- As of the 4th quarter of 2010, 1.1 percent of all mortgages, including 4.4 percent of subprime mortgages, were in foreclosure in Alaska.
- Housing starts in Alaska totaled 490 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in February 2011, a decrease of 44.9 percent from January.
- Within the West census region, which includes Alaska, sales of new single-family homes totaled 58,000 units in February 2011, a decrease of 14.7 percent from January. Sales of existing single-family homes remained steady at 1,130,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from February to March 2011.

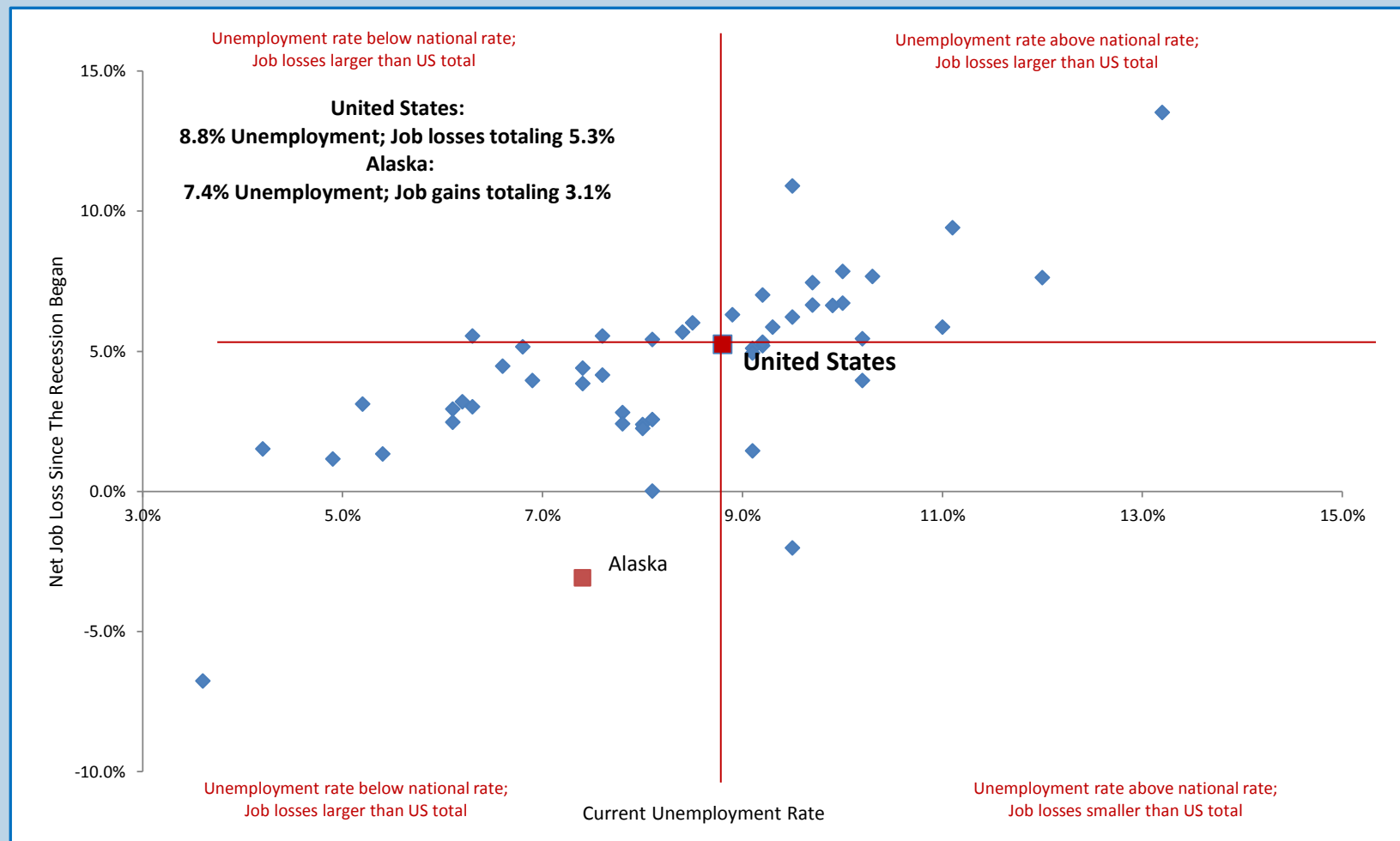
\* For Alaska-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Alaska office: <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us/>

## How Does Alaska Compare To Other States?

Workers across the country were hard hit during the Great Recession. Although labor markets in many states have started recovering, employment in most states still remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows you to compare Alaska to other states using two metrics.

The current unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor market conditions faced by residents, while the proportion of jobs lost within Alaska since the start of the recession (shown along the vertical axis) measures the toll the recession took on the job supply in Alaska.

States falling in the upper right quadrant have lost a disproportionate share of jobs, relative to the total United States, and have unemployment rates higher than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower left quadrant have unemployment rates job losses (or even gains) lower than the national average.



### STATE QUICK FACTS

		Alaska	United States
<b>Unemployment Rates</b> .....	March 2008	6.2%	5.1%
	March 2009	7.4%	8.6%
	March 2010	8.2%	9.7%
	March 2011	7.4%	8.8%
<b>Percent of Population Who Are Veterans</b> .....	2009	12.3%	7.1%
<b>Veterans' Unemployment Rate</b> .....	2009	8.0%	8.9%
<b>Median Household Income</b> .....	2007	\$ 65,165	\$ 51,965
	(2009 \$) 2009	\$ 61,604	\$ 49,777
<b>Poverty Rate</b> .....	2007	7.6%	12.5%
	2009	11.7%	14.3%
<b>No Health Insurance</b> .....	2007	18.2%	15.3%
	2009	17.7%	16.7%

*Prepared by the Chairman's Staff of the Joint Economic Committee*